

vent / flue

A vent is needed to take away any smells from the chamber. Some people will tell you that you need a fan as well, but we've found that as long as the lid is kept shut, smells will vent away naturally without a fan.

4" (100mm) vent pipe works well, and is available from any plumbers' merchants, with associated fixtures and fittings.



After the vent pipe passes through the roof, to prevent leaks, a tight-fitting collar is pushed over it. A waterproof sealant is spread under the collar, and then it is bolted to the roof.

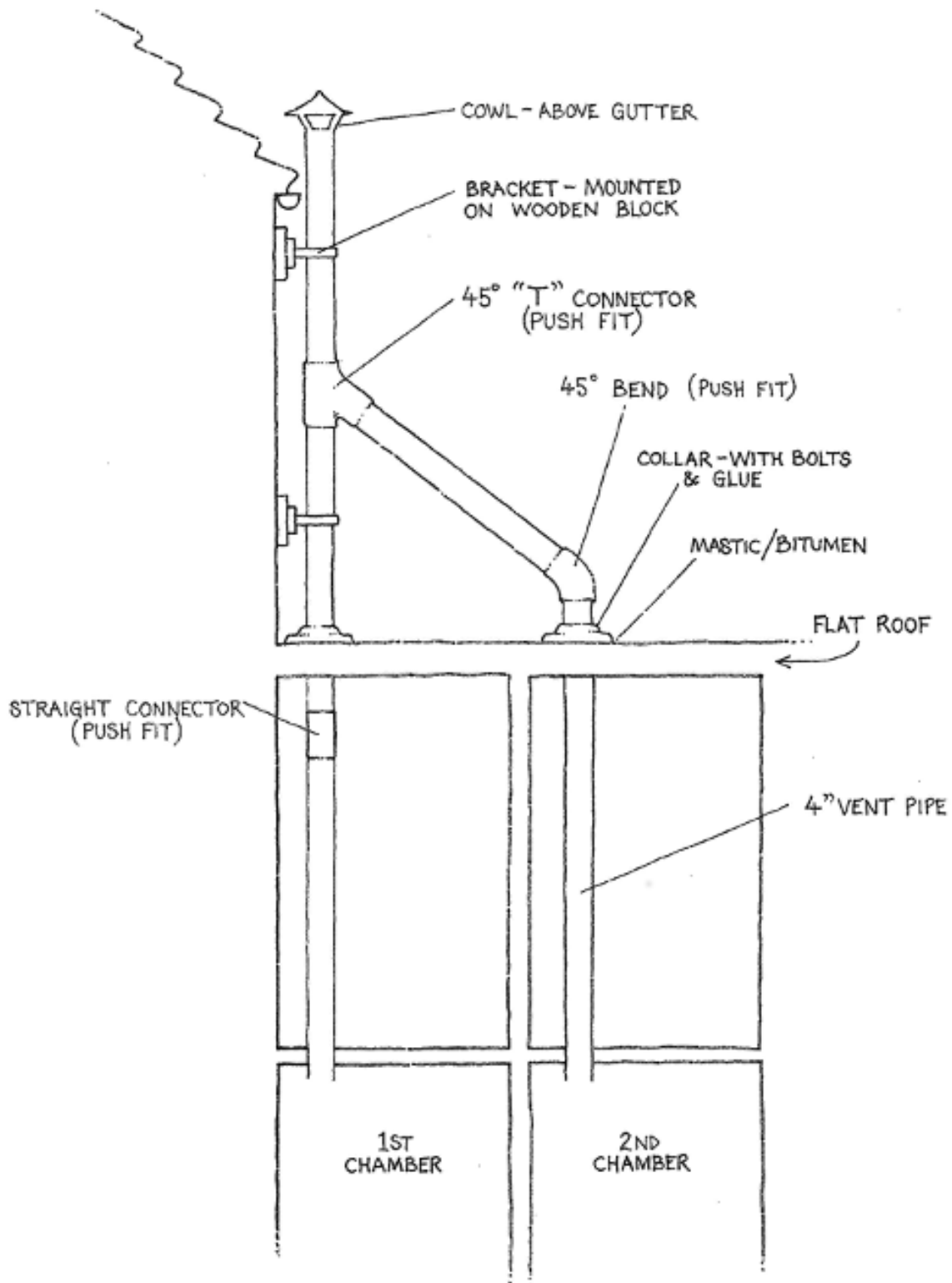
Do the difficult part first - take the pipe through the roof / wall, before marking the platform and taking it down to the chamber. If it is a flat, concrete roof, you can hire a core drill (with safety clutch) and core cutter from a tool hire centre (explain that the hole is to accommodate a 4" pipe). Drill a pilot hole up from underneath first to locate the hole, then make the hole using the core cutter from above. The pipe is then inserted through the hole, which is then made watertight with a collar which is bolted to the roof and sealed with mastic.

If the pipe is to go through a slate / tile roof, then no core cutter is required; remove the slates / tiles, insert the pipe, with collar, and replace the slates / tiles. The slates / tiles should overlap the collar at the top, and the collar should overlap the slates / tiles at the bottom. Extra flashing may be required too – see instructions that should come with the collar, or ask your plumbers' merchant.

If the pipe is to come through a wall, put a 45° bend inside and outside, so that there is a rise in the pipe at all times (no horizontal lengths). Make a hole in the wall with SDS drill and bolster as for the drains, insert the pipe and seal around it with mortar.



Because of internal plaster, the vent pipe is closer to the wall inside than it is outside. Vent pipe comes with special brackets, and to make up the extra distance between the pipe and the wall, the bracket is fixed to a block of wood.



Plan for the vent pipes rising from both chambers, through the roof and above the gutter line.

The pipes from both chambers can come together using a 45° tee into the main pipe that rises above the gutter-line. Do a diagram and talk to your plumbers' merchant, who will be able to give you the right fittings. Bracket the pipe to the outside wall, and take it up above the gutter-line (you don't want smells to be vented into upstairs bedrooms). On top of the pipe, fix a cowl to keep out the rain, and again, a piece of net curtain fixed with electrical tape will keep out flies (although spiders will make webs in the vent pipe to catch flies anyway).



The vent pipe from the left-hand chamber rises vertically from the chamber, through the roof and above the gutter line. The vent from the right-hand chamber comes through the roof and meets a 45° bend, then rises at 45° until it meets the other vent pipe at a 45° tee. These fittings can be bought at good plumbers' merchants.

Attach a straight connector to the pipe where it comes in through the ceiling / wall, and then drop a plumb line from the centre of the pipe to the platform, and mark the centre of the hole for the pipe into the chamber. With a pair of compasses set to the right radius, mark the hole in the chamber, then drill a few holes around the circumference (with the drill-hole inside the circle) and then cut out the hole with a jig-saw. Cut the pipe to length, push it a short way through the hole in the platform, and then push it up firmly into the straight connector (it should be push-fit); seal around the pipe where it meets the platform with silicon sealant.



The 4inch vent pipe comes up from the chamber and through the roof; in fact the roof work was done first, and a short length of pipe was inserted down through the roof. A plumb line was dropped to mark a circle on the chamber, the correct length of pipe was cut, dropped into the hole, then attached to the other pipe via a push-fit connector. Silicon sealant was then used around the pipe where it enters the chamber.



At the top of the vent pipe is a cowl to keep out the rain. Before attaching the cowl, you can fix some sort of mesh (e.g. nylon net curtain) to keep flies out. This may be unnecessary though, as spiders will make their webs in the pipe and do the job naturally.